



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: **Monday, September 11, 2006 / 2 PM**
Date/Time of Occurrence: **Monday, September 11, 2006 / 12:30 PM**
Nature of Call: **Major Fraud Investigation Results in Arrest**
Location of Call: **Northern California**
Case Number:
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant (530) 889-7862**

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Placer County Sheriff's detectives arrested a suspect in a credit fraud scheme with losses in excess of \$400,000.

Detectives arrested Stefani Ruland, 32, of Sheridan, and booked her on charges of identity theft, burglary and grand theft. Ruland is suspected of obtaining credit in the names of others and purchasing over \$400,000 worth of merchandise and gift cards from Wal Mart stores from Dixon to Redding in Northern California.



Stefani Ruland

On Tuesday, September 5, Wal Mart security contacted Placer County Sheriff's detectives with information that a female in Sheridan, a rural community in Placer County near the Yuba County line, was in possession of a large amount of merchandise fraudulently obtained from Wal Mart stores. Detectives and Wal Mart security personnel located the residence in Sheridan and spoke with Ruland. She cooperated with investigators and many items of merchandise illegally obtained from Wal Mart were recovered from her home.

Victims of the identity theft are located throughout the United States, including the east coast, and at this time number seven hundred and fifty (750). Sheriff's detectives and Wal-Mart security are working together to contact and notify victims as they are identified. The investigation is continuing and additional arrests are expected.

Ruland's bail is set at \$10,000.